

**REMARKS**

In the final Office Action mailed on January 9, 2008, the Examiner provisionally rejected claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-38, and 40-57 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-98 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/428,801; rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16-24, 37, 38, and 40-45<sup>1</sup> under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Eckert (U.S. Patent No. 5,487,889) in view of Widemire (U.S. Patent No. 5,728,788); rejected claims 8, 9, 13, 14, and 47-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Eckert in view of Widemire; and allowed claims 25-36 and 46.

By this Amendment, Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 6-9, 11-24, 37, 38, 40-45, and 47-57 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 25-36 and 46 are currently pending in this application, with claim 25 being independent.

Applicant takes this opportunity to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 25-36 and 46. Applicant has canceled all of the other claims in the application, thus placing this application in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's provisional rejection of claims 25-36 and 46 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims 1-98 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/428,801. However, because the claims in the co-pending application have not been patented, the provisional rejection is moot.

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<sup>1</sup> In the Office Action, the Examiner states on pages 3 and 4 that claims 39 and 46 are rejected on the same grounds, but claim 39 was canceled in the last Amendment, filed on October 12, 2007, and on page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that claim 46 is allowed. Applicant therefore understands that these claims do not belong in this rejection. If Applicant's understanding is incorrect, please notify the undersigned.

For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner allow the pending claims.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicant does not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicant declines to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

In discussing the specification, claims, and/or drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicant is in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to an exemplary embodiment described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicant is entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 25-36 and 46 in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that, because none of claims 25-36 and 46 has been amended, this amendment does not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully points out that the final action by the Examiner presented some new arguments as to the application of the art against Applicant's invention. It is respectfully submitted that the entering of the Amendment would allow the Applicant to reply to the final rejections and place the application in condition for allowance.

Finally, Applicant submits that the entry of the amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

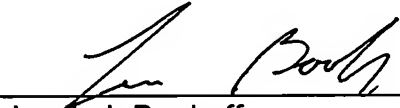
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 10, 2008

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
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